

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/872,255

Examiner

John Elmore

Applicant(s)

KITAZAWA ET AL.

Art Unit

2134

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/15/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the previous office action, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 12, canceled claims 4 and 7-11, and added claims 14 and 15. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15 have been examined.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

2. **Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15 are allowed.**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

**Regarding claim 1**, the closest prior art, Goto et al. (US 5,471,267), hereafter Goto, does not explain (1) a registration image data input means for inputting a registration image associated with input legitimacy-check information of the registration image and (2) that the combined image output means does not output the combined image signal if the input legitimacy-check information does not coincide with the stored legitimacy-check information.

Goto teaches a means for inputting a registration data and information associated with the registration (frame, date, and time information; col. 2, lines 58-64; col. 7, lines 3-7; col. 11, lines 12-16), but provides no reference to a checksum or similar legitimacy-check information that would be used to authenticate the registration image.

Although it is widely known in the art that checksum is commonly employed to verify the integrity of an image, the application of the checksum is generally directed to verifying the successful transmission of an image. The prior art apparently leaves the

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security of the registration image to the user, as the user retains dominion over both the camera and the detachable storage device containing the registration image. In any case, it appears that the prior art provides no suggestion for verifying the registration image stored in a digital camera memory using legitimacy-check information, much less that the registration image is combined with an image taken from the camera lens only upon a successful verification. Given the non-trivial effort required to add the verification software and circuitry to the camera device, it would not seem obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide that the combined image output means does not output the combined image signal if the input legitimacy-check information does not coincide with the stored legitimacy-check information.

**Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15** are allowed by virtue of their dependence on claim 1 or their restatement of the limitations of claim 1 in a method version.

### ***Conclusion***


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Elmore whose telephone number is 571-272-4224. The examiner can normally be reached on M 10-8, T-Th 9-7.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Morse can be reached on 571-272-3838. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

John Elmore

  
GREGORY MORSE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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